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Report

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drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the
Council (Doc. 276/74) for a regulation on the establishment of a Community
register of olive cultivation

Rapporteur: Mr P. DE KEERSMAEKER

By letter of 26 September 1974 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the establishment of a Community register of olive cultivation.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

On 22 October 1974 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr de KEERSMAEKER rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meetings of 21/22 November, 28/29 November and 7/8 December 1974.

At its meeting of 7/8 December 1974 the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Vetrone and Mr Laban, vice-chairmen; Mr de Keersmaeker, rapporteur; Mr Brugger, Mr Cifarelli, Mr Cipolla, Mr Früh, Mr Ligios, Mr Martens and Lord St. Oswald.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

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The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the establishment of a Community register of olive cultivation

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹;
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 276/74);
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 426/74);
1. Approves the establishment of a register of olive cultivation in the Community and considers this a useful contribution to efficient market management in the olive oil sector;
 2. Stresses the importance of the establishment of a register of olive cultivation for the improvement of Community agricultural statistics;
 3. Defers its opinion on the conditions of application and the financing of this project until the Commission's new proposals on the organization of the market in olive oil are known;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

¹ OJ C 126 of 17 October 1974, p. 34

two prices shall be granted to Community producers (the marketing year for olive oil runs from 1 November to 31 October of the following year). Parliament has already stressed the importance of accurate calculation and control of these subsidies¹, and the Committee on Agriculture welcomes the contribution made by this proposal towards the achievement of this aim.

Provision is made for participation by the trade organizations and consultation of Member States' governments at national level, thus ensuring a flexible consultation procedure.

3. The Commission considers that the expenditure incurred in establishing this register should be met by withholding part of the aid granted to producers. This part amounts to 1% of the aid for the 1973/74 marketing year and 5% of the aid for the 1974/75 marketing year. If the costs prove to be greater than the amount made available by withholding the above percentage, the Council will take a decision before 31 December 1976 on how the remaining expenditure is to be financed, as well as on the proportion to be met by the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF.

However, the proposal for a regulation does not give a complete picture of the financial implications of the project.

The Commission has so far found it impossible to assess the total cost. The Committee on Agriculture can therefore not adopt a position on this point at this stage.

4. The Committee on Agriculture approves the principle of establishing a register of olive cultivation, but refrains from delivering an opinion at this stage on the proposed method of financing.

It considers it desirable that the European Parliament should be consulted again in due course on the financial aspects, once the Commission is in a position to provide the missing data concerning the total cost.

¹ DE KONING Report, Doc. 200/73

ANNEX

1) Introduction

This proposal for a regulation seeks to establish a Community register of olive cultivation.

The estimated financing, according to the Commission, is as follows:

1% of the amount of the aid for the 1973/1974 marketing year	2.5 u.a.
5% of the amount of the aid for the 1974/1975 marketing year	9.5 u.a.
TOTAL	12.0 u.a.

In view of the timing of the aid payments, the amounts will be withheld in the years 1975 to 1978.

2) The Commission states that total aid granted by the EAGGF will remain the same and that these percentages will constitute part of that amount and will not occasion additional expenditure.

It indicates that the Council will decide by 31 December 1976 on the type of financing to be introduced if further expenditure should prove necessary.

3) The Committee on Budgets wishes to make the following observations: as regards the financial implications of this proposed regulation, no information is given about the criteria used in estimating costs.

This omission is particularly unacceptable since the proposed regulation provides for the possibility of increasing financing for the establishment of the register of olive cultivation should the costs prove to be higher than estimates (Article 3(3) of the proposal).

All the data provided for on the model financial schedule drawn up by the Commission are especially valuable to the Committee on Budgets when the proposed regulation bears on a new Community measure with financial implications.

It is therefore one of those proposals for a regulation on which the Committee on Budgets and Parliament seek a power of co-decision.

However, before any power can be properly exercised the financial implications of each proposal must be clearly and fully explained.

The present proposal for a regulation does not meet this requirement.